



Honors for UNO community

Walter Scott Jr. and UNO alumni are awarded various honors.

NEWS
[PAGE 2]

gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

Softball wins two double-headers over the week

Team secures 20th consecutive 30 win season with crushing defeats of Peacocks, Bearcats

SPORTS
[PAGE 5]



VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 48

FRIDAY | APRIL 10, 2009

Student Government offers program to help cash-strapped students

KRISTIN HAWTHORNE
CONTRIBUTOR

Student Government has provided one money-saving grace for students in today's changing economy through the Student Savings Club.

The program is paid through Fund A student fees. It provides information for students to utilize discounts offered by area businesses by presenting a coupon or MavCard.

When the program first launched, few discounts were offered. It now has more than 40 different ways for students to save.

"This is a good way to save a buck or two"

Neal Bonacci, president of Student Government, said he believes the site has really started to be used to its full potential. Now, through advertisements posted throughout campus and those placed in The Gateway, Student Government is attempting to increase student use.

"We have lots of different expenses on our plates," Bonacci said. "This is a good way to save a buck or two."

Discounts include 10 percent off at Fuddrucker's, free fountain drinks when purchasing an entrée at Qdoba Mexican Grill and a free second round of mini-golf at Family Fun Center.

Qdoba management said that 25 percent to 50 percent of their business was from UNO students using their MavCards.

However, Computer World management said they don't see a lot of students taking advantage of their 15 percent discount, but they would like to.

"It will only continue to grow as we use it"

NEAL BONACCI

Sophomore Christina Hamilton and freshman Sophie Plumb said they had never heard of the Student Savings Club.

Many movie theatres have reduced or eliminated student discounts on certain days, they said, so

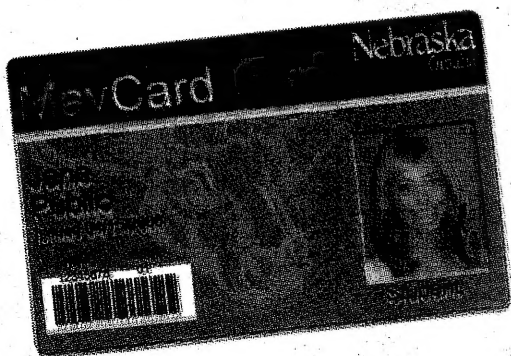
news of the program appealed to them.

"I'd check it out," Plumb said.

Bonacci said his hope was to gain enough local-business participation through regular student use to save students an average of \$1,000 a year.

"It will only continue to grow as we use it," Bonacci said.

To check out the Student Savings Club Web site, visit <http://www.studentsavingsclub.com/SchoolDiscounts>.



MavRadio will broadcast Maverick spring game

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

MavRadio, UNO's student-run radio station, will broadcast the Mavericks' spring football game on Saturday, the first-ever broadcast of UNO athletics for the station.

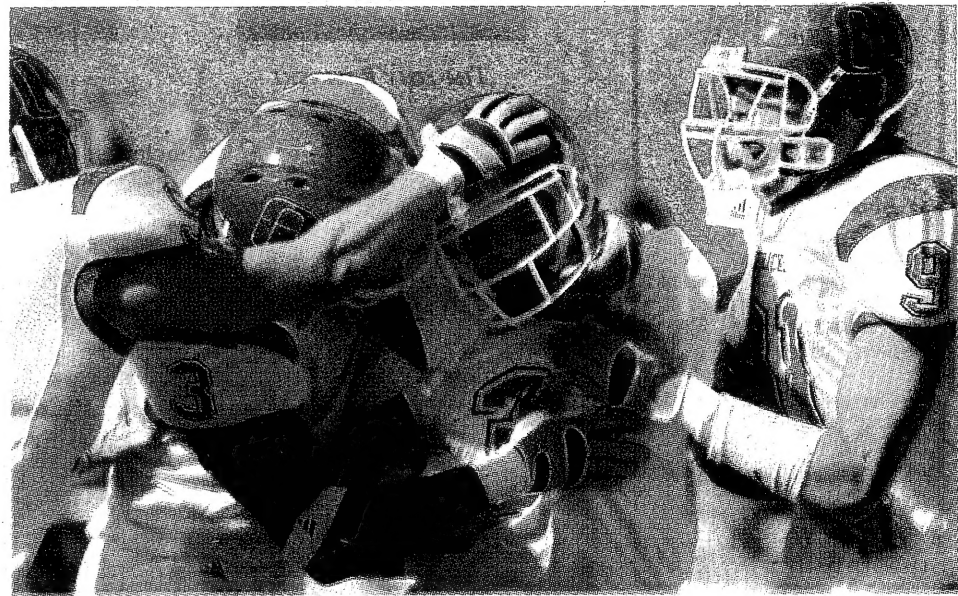
The game will be announced by MavRadio Sports Director Jon Green, who is also The Gateway's circulation manager. He will provide play-by-play announcements.

"We are excited to do our first-ever broadcast of UNO athletics and hope this is the first of many," Green said. "It makes a lot of sense for UNO MavRadio to provide radio coverage for UNO athletics."

Anyone wanting to listen to the live stream of the broadcast can do so via MavRadio's Web site, unomavradio.com.

Saturday's scrimmage begins at 1 p.m. at Caniglia Field and is free and open to the public. It marks the end of the Mavericks' spring practice schedule, which began mid-March.

The team is currently auditioning players for several key positions — including quarterback, running back and linebacker — following the departure of 21 seniors. UNO went 7-4 last season, making their fifth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division II playoffs, where



The Maverick football team will take the field on Saturday for its annual spring game, which will begin at 1 p.m. at Caniglia Field. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

they lost to conference foe Pittsburg State in the first round.

Before the scrimmage, the Mavs will host an Easter egg hunt sponsored by Cox Communications and Shopko for children 12 and under. Registration begins at 11 a.m. for the noon event.

The Maverick Beef Club, the official booster club of UNO football, will also host its annual kickoff party following the game at D.J.'s Dugout at 636 N. 114th St.

The event will include presentations from head coach Pat Behrns and club president Jim Olafson, free appetizers, raffle prizes and highlight video.

The Maverick football team begins its 2009 season on Aug. 27 when it hosts East Central University of Oklahoma at 7 p.m.

Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association play begins Sept. 12 when UNO hosts Truman State at 6 p.m.

Jury rules in favor of professor ousted from CU for Sept. 11, Nazi reference

SAM DIETER
CAMPUS PRESS

BOULDER, Colo. (UWIRE) — A Colorado jury has ruled in favor of Ward Churchill but has only awarded him \$1.

"I didn't ask for money," Churchill said to a crowd of reporters after the trial. "It has been found by a jury that I was wrongly fired."

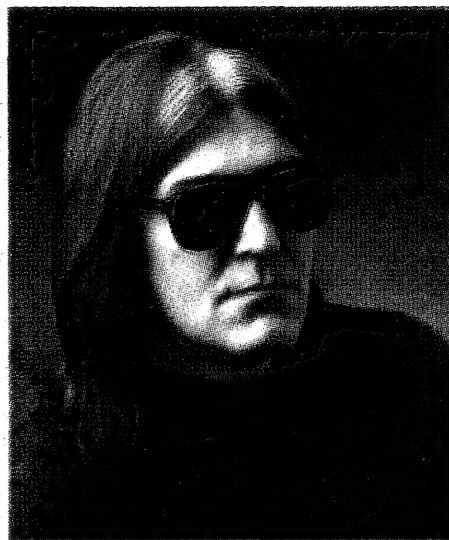
Churchill, a former professor at the University of Colorado, gained national attention for an essay he wrote in 2001 titled "Some People Push Back: On the Justice of Roosting Chickens," in which he referred to some victims of the Sept. 11 attacks as "little Eichmanns" after a high-ranking Nazi official. The essay came to light in early 2005 and gained national attention.

The former governor of Colorado Bill Owens, as well as pundits such as Bill O'Reilly, criticized Churchill. Soon after the controversy, several CU committees allegedly discovered that Churchill had been engaged in academic misconduct, plagiarism and fraud.

In 2007, the Board of Regents voted to fire Churchill, a tenured professor.

Churchill then sued CU and the Board of Regents, claiming that he was wrongfully terminated in retaliation for his Sept. 11 essay. The trial finally came to a close on Thursday afternoon after having started at the beginning of March.

Churchill spent most of the day sitting in his chair reading a book, while his lawyers, reporters and several court



WARD CHURCHILL

employees chatted happily with each other. Those partaking in the chatter seemed to think that Churchill was going to win, partially because the jury presented the judge with several questions involving monetary compensations.

"If all but one jury member can agree on a monetary amount for question four, can that person be replaced by another juror?" was one question read to the court by Judge Larry Naves, who answered simply, "No."

Soon afterward, the six jurors returned their verdict.

The first three questions posed to them were: if Churchill's Sept. 11 essay served as "a motivating factor" in a majority of the Regents' votes to

SEE CHURCHILL: PAGE 3

Vokal out after finishing third in mayoral race

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

Republican Hal Daub and Democrat Jim Suttle advanced in the race for mayor following Tuesday's municipal primary, while Republican City Council member Jim Vokal was knocked out of the running.

Daub, a former mayor of Omaha and former member of Congress, received 35.6 percent of the vote. Suttle, a member of the City Council, came in a close second at 34.3 percent — a difference of only 606 votes out of the 44,206 votes cast.

Vokal received 28.2 percent of the vote, while Randy William Brown received 1.2 percent, Mort Sullivan received 0.5 percent and 0.2 percent of voters wrote-in a candidate for mayor.

In the City Council races, candidates for District 1, District 4, District 5 and District 6 all advanced because only two candidates filed for each office. Incumbent Chuck Sigerson is also running unopposed for District 7.

Incumbent Frank Brown and challenger Ben Gray, both Democrats, advanced in the District 2 race.

Democrat Chris Jerram and Republican Chip Maxwell advanced in District 3.

Complete results of the primary are available from the Douglas County Election Commission's Web site, votedouglascounty.com.

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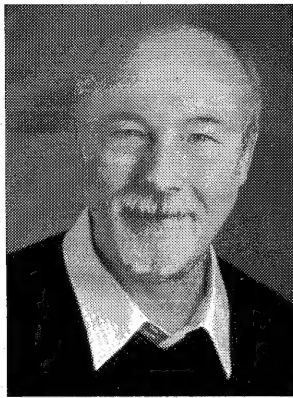
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Alumni honored by education college



TIMOTHY RASINSKI

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

The College of Education honored four alumni at its 21st annual Hollie Bethel Distinguished Alumni Luncheon on Wednesday at the Thompson Alumni Center.

Timothy Rasinski, a professor of literacy education at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, was presented the Distinguished Service Award. He has written more than 200 articles and has contributed to more than 50 books and curriculum programs on reading education. He received a bachelor's degree in 1977 and a master's degree in 1979 from the college.

Karen Clark, the advanced education counselor at Omaha South High School, was presented the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award. She has had a 48-year career in education,

including 46 years at South High where she specialized in college selection and enrollment. She received a bachelor's degree in 1961 and a master's degree in 1969 from the college.

Max Kurz, an assistant professor at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute, was presented the Distinguished Promising Professional Award. His studies include the surgical and therapeutic trends for restoring walking in children with movement disabilities. He received a master's degree in 1997 from the college and a Ph.D. from UNL in 2006.

Dick C. E. David, the CEO of Davis Companies, was presented the Distinguished Friend of Education

Award. He is a former educator whose Davis Family Foundation has contributed mentoring and financial assistance to high-school students since 1990 and who has served on the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. He received a master's degree in 1972 from the college.

The college annually selects graduates who have distinguished themselves as outstanding professionals or in the community.

The program began in 1988 and has honored 129 alumni.

Past honorees have been invited to return to campus this year to help celebrate UNO's centennial.

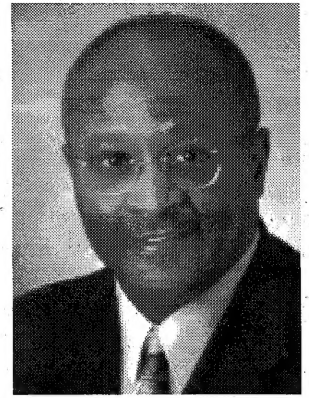
The awards luncheon is named after Hollie Bethel, who was a faculty member in the Department of Elementary Education, now the Department of Teacher Education, from 1951 to 1975. She served as the chair of that department for 12 years.



KAREN CLARK



MAX KURZ



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UNIVERSITY BENEFACTOR HONORED

Walter Scott Jr. accepts the 2009 Norman Vincent Perle Award from the Horatio Alger Association at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., on April 13.

"Over the years, the Scotts have generously supported UNO and particularly its students," according to the NU Foundation. "Their generosity has enabled the university as well as individuals to realize new opportunities and ultimately remarkable dreams."

CRIME LOG

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

theft of personal property from the HPER Building. The incident occurred between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Monday, March 30
8:11 a.m. A student reported the theft of personal property from the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building. The incident occurred between 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 27.

10:50 a.m. A staff member reported the theft of personal property from the Sapp Fieldhouse. The incident occurred between 12 p.m., Monday, March 23, and 6:30 a.m., Monday, March 30.

4:31 p.m. A student reported the theft of personal property from a vehicle parked at First Christian Church. The theft occurred between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

8:10 p.m. A visitor reported the theft of personal property from the HPER Building. The incident occurred between 6:30 p.m. and 8:05 p.m.

8:15 p.m. A student reported the

Sunday, April 5
5:18 a.m. Campus Security responded to a report of a suspicious person at University Village. A visitor was removed from campus and issued a ban and bar notice.

Monday, April 6
5 p.m. Campus Security issued a ban and bar notice to a visitor upon a complaint from Milo Bail Student Center staff.

Tuesday, April 7
11:35 p.m. While on patrol, Campus Security was approached by a Scott Village resident assistant to assist with an alcohol violation. Five visitors were removed from campus, and two students were referred for disciplinary action.

Stripper poles: Just one of the many illegal terms in Kent State dorms

KRISTYN LEBOVITZ
DAILY KENT STATER

KENT, Ohio (UWIRE) – A residence hall director found a stripper pole bolted to the ceiling and floor of a Kent State University dorm room over winter break.

Edward Moio Jr., fire safety coordinator at Kent State University, said 99 percent of students who have illegal items in their rooms offer the typical excuse: "We didn't know we weren't allowed to have that."

Residence assistants and Kent State's Fire Safety Division frequently find other, more common violations in the residence halls – stripper poles are unusual.

"I haven't really read the handbook," said Mark Feldman, junior political science major. He suspects that's the case among other students, too.

Carrie Circosta, assistant residence hall director of Beall and McDowell Halls, confirms it. She said one of the main reasons students don't know what is and isn't illegal in the residence hall is because they don't read the handbook or just don't care.

What you might not have known were not permitted:

– Holiday lights with more than 10 bulbs per strand. Also, lights may not be hung from the ceiling or beds.

– Any kind of lamp that is flexible, whether it's a floor lamp or a small desk lamp.

– Duct tape or any other tape that can peel off the paint.

– Nails screwed or bolted into the wall, ceiling or floor (for example, stripper poles bolted to the ceiling).

– Pets, which include the more commonly found rabbits and rats.

– Socks placed over the smoke detectors.

Over spring break, residence assistants and fire safety checked students' rooms, and anything illegal either was confiscated or reported.

When Moio finds illegal items in students' rooms, he said he leaves a note for the students, contacts the residence hall director or assistant residence hall director or removes the item.

"If it's a fire hazard, I have to take care of it," Moio said.

Circosta said residents usually get confused about lamps and holiday lights. She said they confiscated two moving carts full of lamps during Christmas break.

"That is your home for the year, but if you think it's going to cause damage, don't do it," Circosta said.

ANITA CREAMER
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (MCT) – Drexel University, which opened its graduate studies center on Sacramento's Capitol Mall in January, plans to cut tuition in half this fall for entering graduate students who have been laid off from their jobs.

According to the graduate center's dean and chief executive officer, Carl "Tobey" Oxholm III, the tuition reduction program aims to help the local work force prepare to rebound from the ailing economy.

"We don't want students to leave Sacramento for another place they think the grass is greener," Oxholm said. "We want them to stay and use the time to bone up on their skills, so they can be ready to work at the highest possible level when the economy returns."

William Jessup University in February announced a 2.5 percent across-the-board undergraduate tuition cut beginning this fall at its Rocklin, Calif., campus, and a handful of other universities across the country have instituted similar reductions.

But Oxholm said he's not aware of other graduate degree programs offering half-price discounts specifically for students who have already been slammed by the

recession.

The Drexel discount will apply to students who enroll in the fall and have been unable to find new employment after being laid off since December 2007.

Students can remain in Drexel's "Bridge to the Future" program as long as they maintain a 3.0 average and can't find work.

Tuition for local Drexel students varies from one graduate program to another, said Oxholm. The two-year master of business administration degree, for example, costs \$47,000 without the tuition cut. The school offers other tuition breaks based on academic record.

"The Bridge program is a short-term stopgap for issues we all face," said Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President Steve Gandola. "But I look at this as a long-term investment."

"As the aging baby boom generation retires and moves out of the work force, it's critical we have a high level of leadership prepared to step into the role."

Philadelphia-based Drexel currently has 53 graduate students at its downtown center, but Oxholm said he expects fall enrollment to increase to 10 to 15 students in each of the center's 10 master's degree programs.

FROM CHURCHILL: PAGE 1

fire Churchill, if the firing caused Churchill harm and if Churchill would have been dismissed had it not been for his essay.

The jurors decided unanimously in Churchill's favor on all of these questions.

In answer to the fourth and final question, how much money Churchill should be compensated with, the jury awarded the

professor a total of \$1.

"It took a while and ended quick ... what was asked for and what was delivered was justice," Churchill said after the trial.

Churchill's head attorney, David Lane, repeated that Churchill did not want money, but he did want his job back.

"The law says that reinstatement is the preferred

remedy," Lane said.

Judge Naves will be holding hearings to decide whether to reinstate Churchill, Lane said.

"There are very few defining moments that give the First Amendment this kind of life," Lane said.

"Mr. Lane told the jury a message with their monetary award and I believe they sent that," said

Ken McConnellogue, spokesman for the CU system, after the trial. "The way you send a message is through a monetary reward."

What will happen next for the university and Churchill is a different matter.

"We'll be talking within the next 30 days," McConnellogue said of the possibility of Churchill being reinstated, saying that

Churchill "certainly" should not get his job back.

McConnellogue said CU would be considering all legal options, including an appeal.

McConnellogue said Churchill's essay was a "flashpoint" for starting the investigations against him, but also that "we have maintained all along that this isn't a First Amendment case."

LOOKING TO MAKE YOUR MARK?

The Gateway is currently accepting applications for Editor in Chief for Summer & Fall 2009.

Interview times to be announced.

Grab an application at the Gateway office (first floor, MBSC)

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Little-known Minnesota school crashes NCAA hockey party

JIM SOUHAN
STAR TRIBUNE

Bemidji is the northern Minnesota home to huge statues of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. Bemidjians won't need so much concrete and wood to honor their latest folk heroes, the life-sized creators of the local university's tall-but-true tale.

Led by players such as 5-foot-8, 164-pound Tyler Scofield, Bemidji State this weekend became the first team seeded 16th in the NCAA hockey tournament to advance to the Frozen Four.

"I'll tell you right now, it's been a madhouse," said coach Tom Serratore, a BSU alum. "We got back at 2 a.m. after the game Sunday, and there were 200 people waiting for us at the airport. It's nice to have the whole town excited about what's happening. It's neat for a little town."

In the tournament, the Beavers outperformed all of the members of the WCHA, the conference they are petitioning to join, during the week that WCHA officials will visit the campus to kick the tires.

While in town, the WCHA officials can enjoy the lack of traffic, the clean air, perhaps take in a little world-class curling,

and walk in the university's tunnels. (Think underground skyways.)

Serratore said everyone in town is talking hockey. While a small contingent of fans found their way to Grand Rapids, Mich., for the NCAA Midwest Regional,

Serratore said Sunday's regional final against Cornell played out before about 2,500 fans in all.

Most locals packed the Ground Round and Lazy Jack's to watch the game on TV. (If you wanted to watch at home, you had to subscribe to Paul Bunyan

cable.)

The headlines in the Bemidji Pioneer told the story, in Lake Wobegonian fashion:

"Dozens turn out at airport to welcome home Beavers at 2 a.m."

"Tense excitement erupts at Bemidji bar as Beavers make history."

"Beavers mentioned in New York Times."

One of the Pioneer writers coined a phrase, describing the reception at the airport as "Beatlemania on a Bemidji scale."

"People want to grab onto something

like this," said Serratore, whose brother, Frank, coaches Air Force, also an NCAA tournament qualifier. "It's human nature to love Bemidji State, to grab onto this kind of story. This instills pride of community and program and team, and brings all of that to a different level."

"For our players to get to see that is just so gratifying. For us to win this thing is no fluke. That's disrespectful. Because we're really good. What we should really focus on is this is good for hockey."

Serratore played at Bemidji State under Bob Peters, and he was there at the airport to greet Serratore when he returned early Monday morning. Employing a style of hockey based on what he calls "a puck pressure game," Serratore has learned to search for players wherever he can find them.

"We have our own little niche in recruiting," Serratore said. "You look at our roster, we're kind of 'Team Universe.' We've got Euros, Canadians, Minnesotans, Californians, Alaskans. We're a well-traveled group."

"It's a group of kids that works extremely hard, and we have some high-end talent, and we think we've obviously come into our own lately."

The Beavers are 13-2-1 in their past 16

games. At the regionals, they got a boost from Scofield, their senior forward.

He's listed at 5-8, 164 pounds, but Serratore's nickname for him is "151," because he showed up on campus weighing 151 pounds, in full uniform.

"But he's got the heart of a lion," Serratore said. "I haven't coached against a kid in college hockey who's as fast as this kid. His speed and skill level are second to none."

Scofield had two goals and an assist in the Beavers' 5-1 upset of top-seeded Notre Dame, and two goals and an assist in their 4-1 defeat of No. 9 Cornell.

Those upsets send Bemidji State to the national semifinals on April 9 at the Verizon Center in Washington D.C., to face Miami of Ohio.

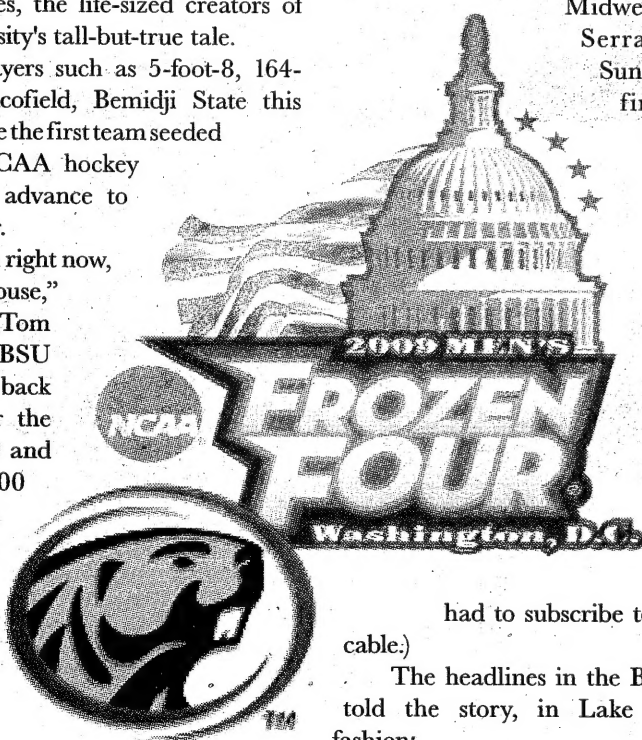
If you're in Bemidji that day, you can probably find the game on Paul Bunyan cable at Lazy Jack's. Tense excitement is sure to erupt.



TOM SERRATORE



TYLER SCOFIELD



Hockey players celebrate 2009 season achievements, honors

MICHELLE BISHOP
SPORTS & PHOTO EDITOR

The hockey team announced their postseason honors at the team's annual year-end awards banquet held at the Thompson Alumni Center on Saturday.

Captain Mark Bernier led the way, receiving two awards. The junior was the recipient of the Most Consistent Player Award and the Mike Rehmeier Biggest Heart Award. The first award goes to the player with the best plus-minus rating for the season while the second award goes to the player who sets the best example of work ethic and team dedication.

Defenseman Eddie DelGrosso was named the Most Valuable Player. DelGrosso led the Mavs in scoring with six goals and 28 assists for 34 points and was named to the All-Central Collegiate Hockey Association second team. The junior was named league player of the week three times.

Defenseman Pasko Skarica was named UNO's Most Improved Player in a vote of

his teammates. The sophomore collected five assists in 33 games for UNO.

Freshman John Kemp was named the Panera Bread Newcomer of the Year. Kemp finished sixth in team scoring with two goals and 20 assists for 22 points. His assist total ranked second on the team behind DelGrosso.

Goaltender Jeremie Dupont won the Mavs' Student-Athlete Award for the second straight year. Dupont was also a member of the CCHA All-Academic team.

Junior forward Jeric Agosta won the Seventh Man Award, given to the player who best exemplifies team spirit, attitude, citizenship and the ability to overcome adversity. Agosta finished with four goals and four assists while playing in 38 of 40 games.

The Mavs finished the season at 15-17-8 overall and 8-13-7-3 in the CCHA.

UNO started the season by jumping out to the best start in program history at 12-4-3. But the new year wasn't kind to the Mavs. The team collected only one win

during the second half and set a school-record 14-game winless streak of 0-9-5. UNO finished in eighth place in the CCHA.

Notre Dame ended UNO's season in the second round of the CCHA playoffs. The Mavs advanced to the second round of the conference playoffs for the fifth consecutive season after defeating Ferris State in the opening round.



Jeremie Dupont gets in position to make a save during a November game against Ferris State. Dupont was awarded the hockey team's Student-Athlete Award for the second straight year. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

thirsty?

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Softball sweeps Bearcats, Peacocks to secure 30-win season

MICHELLE BISHOP
SPORTS & PHOTO EDITOR

The No. 22-ranked UNO softball team secured its 20th straight 30-win season after picking up a non-conference doubleheader sweep over Upper Iowa University (14-14) Wednesday at Claussen-Westgate Field.

The Mavs improved to 30-7 and remained at 4-2 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association after winning 9-2 and 7-0 against the Peacocks.

UNO, which trailed 2-1 entering the fifth inning, rallied for eight runs to take the first game 9-2. Junior Treightin Yates and freshmen Katelyn Hinton and Molly Feichtinger each had RBI singles in the fifth inning. Sophomore Chelsea Koch's ground out added another run.

The Mavs added three more runs in the sixth when Feichtinger singled in a run and junior Jenna Dell knocked in two with a single.

Junior Melissa Negrete pitched the first six innings, allowing two runs off of three hits with three strikeouts and a walk.

In game two, Yates' second triple of the day triggered a five-run first inning for UNO. Dell and senior Amanda Bader had back-to-back RBI doubles and Koch had an RBI single. Hinton singled down the left-field line to drive in the fifth run.

UNO added two more runs off of Dell's RBI double in the fourth and Yates' RBI single in the fifth.

"This is the kind of pitching I like," Yates said. "They were throwing pitches I like to hit."

Yates finished the day 5-for-6 with four runs scored, while Dell was 3-for-4 with four RBIs.

Sophomore Lindsey Slocum pitched the second game, allowing just three hits while striking out eight. The shutout improved her to 9-0 on the

year.

"My outfielders are doing a really good job and our defense does really well when I've been pitching," Slocum said. "It felt really nice to jump on them early so we get an early lead, it makes me a little more relaxed pitching."

On Tuesday, the Mavs swept a doubleheader from Northwest Missouri State (11-29, 2-8 MIAA) in Maryville, Mo. UNO used a clutch hit from freshman Emma Wright to slip by 2-1 in game one and pounded out 11 runs in game two to win 11-1.

Wright, who entered the game with two hits in 26 at bats, crushed a two-run shot in the second inning for her first collegiate home run. It proved to be the only offense UNO needed in the first game. Negrete pitched a complete game, allowing four hits and striking out eight.

Negrete carried a shutout into the seventh inning. The Bearcats scored a run in the bottom of the seventh after a pair of two-out doubles, but Negrete got the final batter to line out, ending the game.

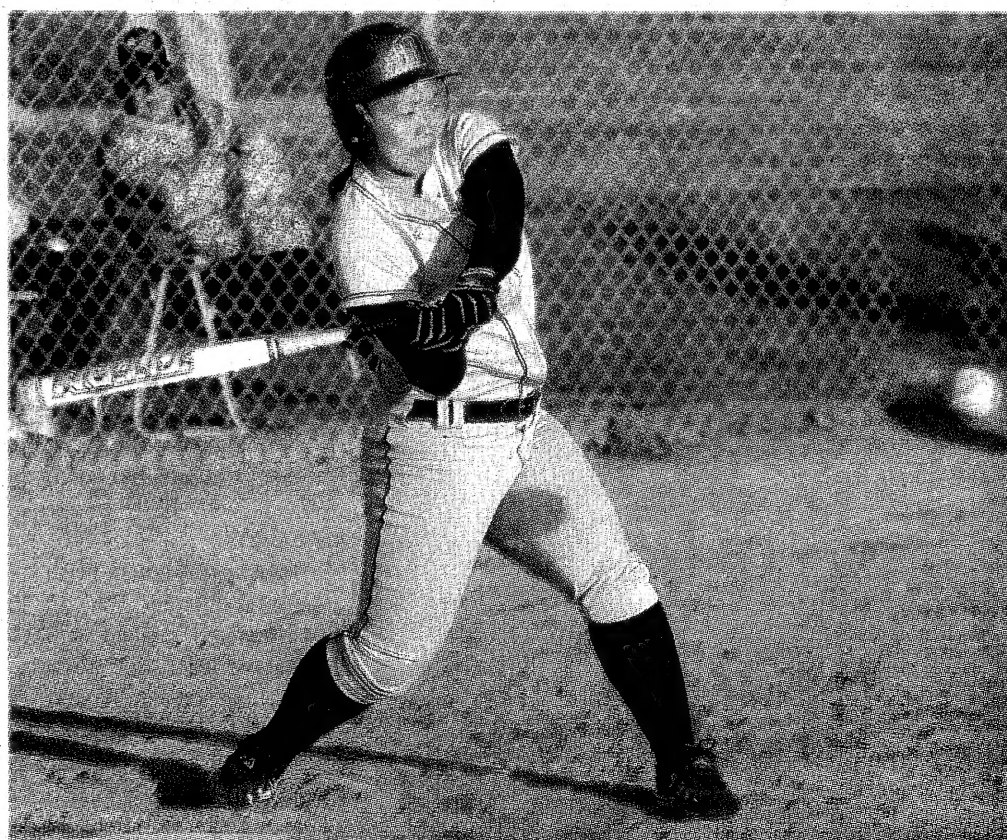
UNO jumped out to an early lead in the second game and never looked back. Bader hit a three-run homer in the first, and Yates knocked a three-run shot in the third. The Mavs added two more runs in the fifth. Sophomore Ashley Lynch's double scored Koch and Wright.

"Northwest always comes to play, it's always good games with them," Yates said. "We came out right away and started hitting the ball and that's always a good thing."

Koch finished 3-for-3, while Bader was 2-for-3 with three RBIs.

Slocum pitched a complete game, allowing one run off five hits with three strikeouts and no walks.

UNO faces Fort Hays State (23-22, 3-5 MIAA) Saturday at Claussen-Westgate Field. First pitch of the doubleheader is set for noon.



Top Left: Golf head coach Tim Nelson and Athletic Director David Miller (right) were in attendance at Wednesday's game, watching UNO face off against Miller's new employer. Miller accepted the athletic director position at Upper Iowa University earlier this month.

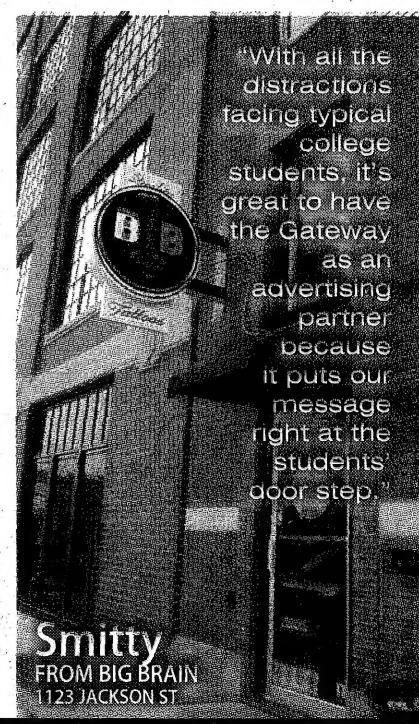
Top Right: Upper Iowa pitcher Casey Coon tags out UNO's Lindsey Slocum during game two on Wednesday.

Bottom: Kristi Meneely takes a cut during game two on Wednesday. (ALL PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

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Local theater production 'Broken Mirror' focuses on women's issues

DANIELLE SHERMAN & ANDREA BARBE
CONTRIBUTOR & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In today's society, image is everything. Television shows, movies and commercials are graced with the most glamorous celebrities. Flawless models appear on the front cover of the magazines filled with beauty and exercise tips on how the average reader can look like these cover girls. To many teenage girls who are barraged with these images multiple times a day, it can be harmful to their self-esteem and lead to eating disorders.

The Rose Theater in downtown Omaha is trying to combat these negative self-images with the production "Broken Mirror," a show written and performed by 30 teenagers that explores real issues of sex, self-mutilation, peer pressure and relationships. The play opens April 16 and is currently in its ninth season as part of the

in 2000 and thought it was a good outlet for teenage girls to express themselves.

"I really liked the idea of making up our own script," Friedman said. "It was just a fun, creative adventure for the whole cast making up the script from their own stories and experiences because obviously the media's idea of skinny is not at all what the normal skinny is."

But the Rose isn't the only organization reaching out to women about issues facing them on a daily basis. The Women's Resource Center at UNO, located on the first floor of the Milo Bail Student Center, also offers a helping hand for women who struggle with eating disorders, sexual abuse and other problems.

WRC Director Lori Young has helped organize events like last fall's "Dying to Be Thin" to help raise awareness for eating disorders. Students, both male and female, and faculty members shared their own personal struggles.

Young also spoke at the event about her own problems with body image and food.

"My experience with an eating disorder was an unhealthy way to deal with internal conflict due to a difficult experience," Young said. "One of the main slogans we used for the 'Dying To Be Thin' event was 'Let them eat cake, because it's not about food.' Eating disorders can be symptoms of a bigger internal struggle for control, caused by abuse and other traumas. I think that's overlooked a lot in the media's portrayal of eating disorders."

Young also explained that the WRC library has more than 1,200 books, many of them on eating disorders and unhealthy relationships with food. She hopes that by creating "an environment where eating disorders can be discussed freely," that others can cope

with the disease and seek treatment.

A 2008 study found that nearly 65 percent of American women have had some sort of eating disorder with the most common being anorexia and bulimia, according to the National Institute of Mental Health's Eating Disorder Web site.

While "Broken Mirror" portrays how individuals overcome eating disorders, it also touches upon how to confront friends and family members who might be fighting the disease.

"I have never had an eating disorder," Friedman said. "I believe that a while back, I did have friends who had eating disorders. Back then, I didn't really know how to deal with it. Before the show, I didn't know exactly how to approach it. These skits help teach teens how to talk to their friends about those types of problems."

Although it's been almost a decade since the play began, Friedman said she hopes the show continues for many years to come.

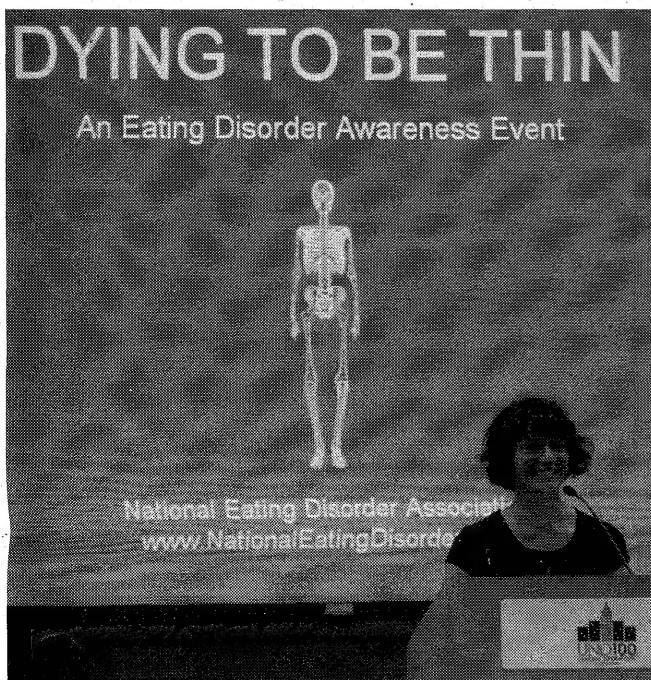
"We're really all about opening peoples' eyes and having viewers get inside the mind of a teenage girl," Friedman said. "Without that kind of creative outlet, some are not able to talk about what's really going on in our lives and what they are seeing. A lot of teenage girls see the play and know that



Juliet Robboy, fought an eating disorder since she was 15, studies herself in the mirror. She said her arms looked fat. (Emily Harris/Miami Herald/KRT)

they're not alone."

"Broken Mirror" opens April 16 and will run through the weekend. Performances are at 7 p.m. with two matinee showings on April 19. Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased by calling the Rose box office at 345-4849. The recommended age for the show is 13 and up. For more information, visit rosetheater.org.



Women's Resource Center Director Lori Young speaks about her experience with an eating disorder. (ANDREA BARBE/THE GATEWAY)

Teens 'N' Theater program, which provides opportunities for teens to act, direct, design and stage manage performances.

Former UNO student Angela Friedman was in the first "Broken Mirror" production

Why are we so fascinated with the train wreck that is Britney Spears?

JON BREAM
STAR TRIBUNE

you."

As with Anna Nicole Smith, America fell for this bleached blonde sweetheart from a small town who has tried to triumph over her white-trash background. We loved that suggestive schoolgirl cooing "Hit me, baby, one more time," that come-hither vixen charming a snake with "I'm a Slave 4 U" and that midriff-bearing coquette on the cover of countless magazines.

But over the years, Spears' career has crashed more often than the stock market. Drugs, bad boyfriends, trailer-trash marriages on a McMansion budget, poor parenting skills, escapes from rehab, custody battles for her two sons, managers quitting, clashes with paparazzi.

In a 2008 cover story titled "Inside an American Tragedy," Rolling Stone said: "She is an in-bred swamp thing who chain smokes, doesn't do her nails, tells reporters to eat it, snort it, lick it and bleep it, and screams at people who want pictures for their little sisters."

All that bad baggage makes the fact that she lip-syncs for entire concerts seem as insignificant as a parking ticket for Bernie Madoff.

But, somehow, Spears bounces back as often as Cher does a farewell tour - and seemingly against all odds at times. After her embarrassingly druggy performance at the 2007 MTV Video Music Awards, an Entertainment Weekly cover story

SEE SPEARS: PAGE 7

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(MCT) - Never in the history of pop music has anyone achieved so much with so little talent as Britney Spears.

That's a big claim, isn't it? Five of her six studio albums have climbed to No. 1 (the other peaked at No. 2). Seven of her singles have landed in the Top 10. She's sold 32 million albums in the United States alone. Those are amazing accomplishments for someone who can't sing without the help of gadgetry. (I attended a rehearsal for the 2000 Grammys, and the show's audio engineer declared her live singing "unusable.")

She's not much of a songwriter, either. When she writes, it's always in collaboration with a team of professional tunesmiths. And she doesn't play an instrument - at least not onstage.

She can't act. Did you see "Crossroads?"

As a Mickey Mouse Club-trained dancer, she can execute the simple moves of a choreographer, but no one is going to mistake her for Janet Jackson, Paula Abdul or even one of the Pussycat Dolls.

So what's Britney Spears' biggest talent? Being a celebrity.

Her career - or more accurately her 11 years in the spotlight - has been, as Rolling Stone magazine put it last year, about "the crucible of fame: loving it, hating it and never being able to stop it from destroying

'Observe' dark side of mall-cops

ROGER MOORE
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

(MCT) - All malls may be created equal with the same array of Gaps, Body Shops and J.C. Penneys from Bangor to Boca, but all mall cop movies aren't. Seth Rogen's "Observe and Report" is "Paul Blart: Mall Cop. Strikes Back," a dark comedy with "issues."

Rogen takes his frustrated "real cop" wannabe into angry, profane and seriously anti-social places that the dimwitted Blart would never go. "Observe and Report" is a funny movie, but also an unhappier one. The star and members of the team that made "The Foot Fist Way" and "Pineapple Express" find their laughs in flashers (full frontal nudity), firing range fantasies, cocaine, crudity and simple shock value.

This profane, rude, irresponsible, medication-ignoring bipolar buffoon has little grounding in mall reality. Or one would hope. But he's funny.

Rogen is Ronnie Barnhardt, a rent-a-badge "head of mall security" at West Ridge Mall. He's touchy about labels. He may not get to carry a gun, but call him a "security guard" and deal with his profane wrath.

"We got Tasers. We got mace. It's

not bad," he tells his troops, who include Michael Pena ("World Trade Center"), a snicker in his first big comic role.

Whatever his work misgivings, Ronnie's mall has a flasher and that gives Ronnie purpose. He must protect the fair Brandi. Anna Faris, a Pamela Anderson with talent, gives this cosmetics-counter bombshell a brazen, tequila shots-pounding verve. She's shallow but still isn't falling for Ronnie's tactless, politically incorrect come-ons. But Nell (Collette Wolfe), the doughnut-shop girl next door, just might.

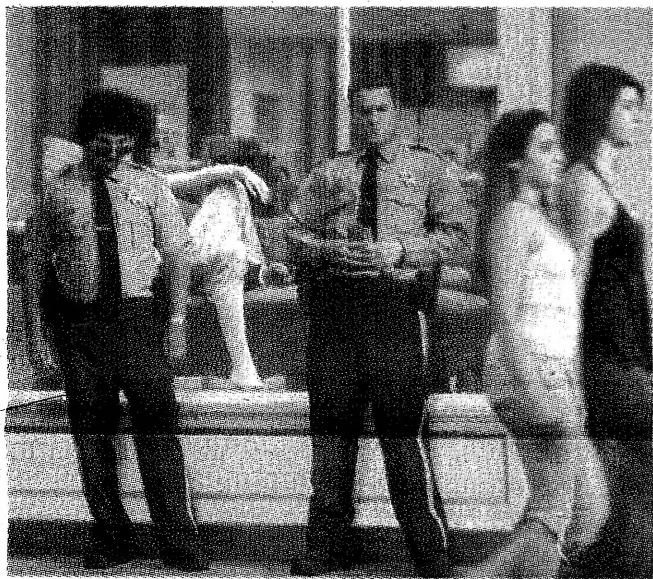
The flasher and a burglary bring Ronnie into conflict with a real cop, played by Ray Liotta on a slow burn.

But as similar as the characters and many of the plot points are to "Mall Cop," writer-director Jody Hill ("The Foot Fist Way") never shies from taking "Observe" into the dark recesses of Ronnie's bipolar mind. Ronnie and the boys hit the shooting range with all manner of deadly weapons. Dumping him in the worst neighborhood in town (Danny McBride plays a drug dealer) doesn't turn out the way you'd expect.

His drunken mom, played by the great Celia Weston, may fret over his medication when she's sober enough to remember. Without his meds, Ronnie is even more delusional than usual. And violent.

The movie's sinister streak makes it impossible to cozy up to, and Rogen's performance - despite a surprising athletic competence (fights, stunts) - is clumsier than usual owing to the actor-playing-poser nature of the role.

But in its own demented "Pineapple"- "Foot Fist"- Four Letter Word way, "Observe and Report" delivers a cynical, angry and funny take on a life of loud, violent desperation.



Michael Pena and Seth Rogen star in the comedy "Observe and Report" out in theaters today. (COURTESY OF IMDB.COM)

FROM **SPEARS**: PAGE 6

screamed: "Oh, the Horror! Is Britney's Comeback Already Over?"

Heck, no. "Gimme More," the tune she'd performed that night, danced to No. 3 on the pop parade and No. 1 on the dance charts.

Then late last year, after countless court hearings and the controversial appointment of her dad as her legal conservator, she delivered a CD called "Circus," a fitting metaphor for her dizzying/dazzling life without a net.

After the album debuted at No. 1 (selling 505,000 copies in its first

week), the title track and "Womanizer" became bona fide smashes.

Now Spears is traveling with her concert version of "Circus."

Reviews from the tour suggest the star is more magician than ringmaster, frequently disappearing from the stage to change costumes and leaving her supporting cast to entertain the crowd. Are people really paying as much as \$750 (for ringside VIP seats) to watch a fashion show, or to be in the presence of a pop princess trying to reclaim her crown?

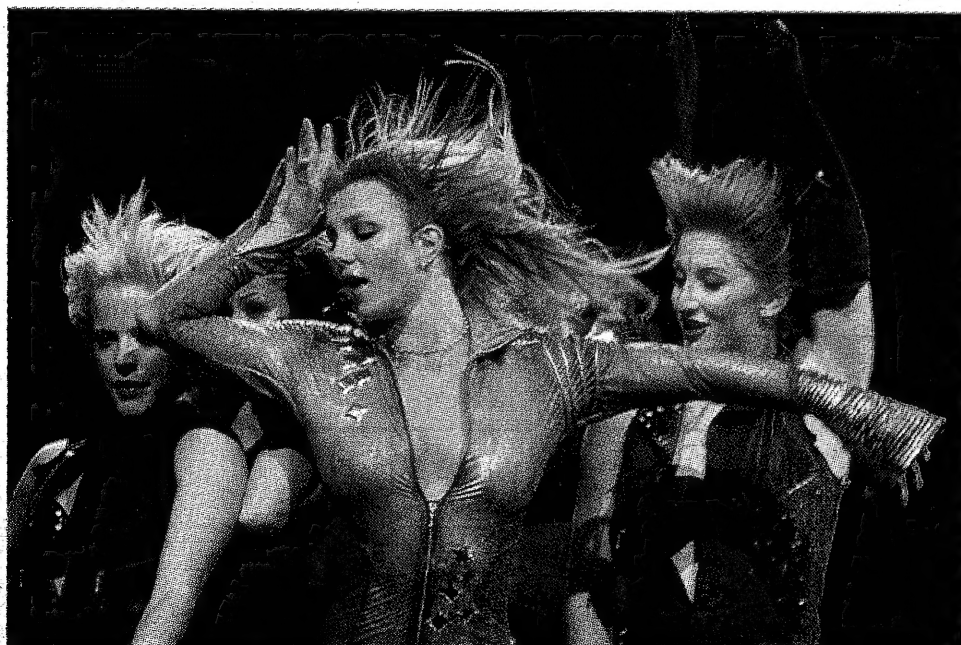
It begs comparison to Cher and Madonna, two divas who do get away

with a parade of costumes in concert. While one can question their vocal abilities, both have parlayed limited talent into long and successful careers. They regularly reinvent themselves, create new images and fashion new sounds. And even though they've made some dubious decisions in their lives (hello, Bagel Boy and "Sex" book), they, unlike Britney, don't make humiliating spectacles of themselves in public.

Despite so many deflating bad choices, Britney, 27, just won't go away. America seems forever fascinated with her up-from-the-boondocks triumph turned Hollywood tragedy. Maybe we're obsessed because we're a nation of rubber-necks, waiting for the next wreck.

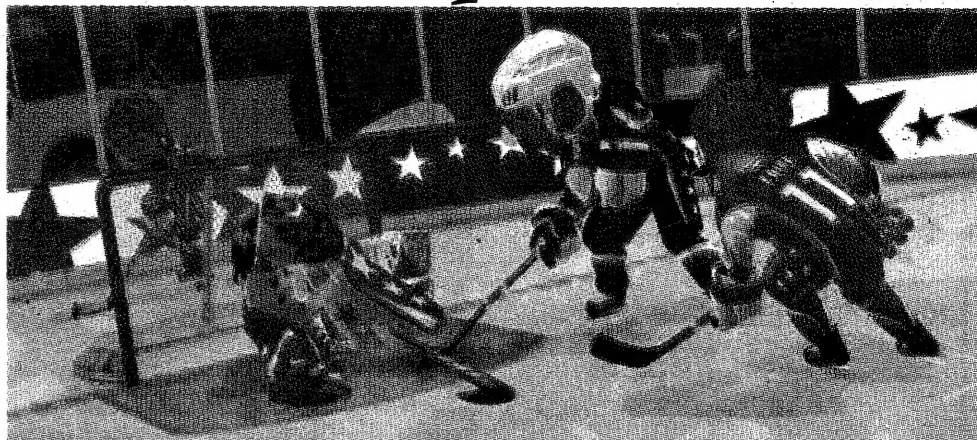
Maybe we just love a real-life soap opera. We can't wait for the next bizarre development or the newest jaw-dropping photograph. So we Google her more than any celeb, and she gets more hits on Perez Hilton's gossip site than any other star.

Or maybe there's something deeper at work - a belief in the possibility of redemption. Maybe we're secretly praying there's another miracle in the troubled star who once made "Oops, I did it again" sound more like a promise than a punch line.



Britney Spears during a 2002 performance at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas. (PAUL MOSELEY/MCT CAMPUS)

'3-on-3' NHL Arcade doesn't live up to standards



COURTESY OF EASPORTS.COM

SETH BOYER
THE NORTHERN LIGHT

One of the things truly depressing about this age of online multiplayer is the marginalization of local multiplayer. No matter how awesome co-op in "Resident Evil 5" might be, there's something ineffably rad about two or more dudes sitting in front of the same TV and talking trash. For most children of the '90s, this meant "MarioKart," "Goldeneye" and "NBA Jam."

In an effort to rekindle the timeless "OH MY, HE'S ON" fire of the arcade sports brilliance that was "NBA Jam," the developers of Electronic Arts' "NHL 09" - one of the best sports games in the past decade - have created a downloadable homage. They're not the first to try to revitalize the arcade sports niche. Efforts such as "NBA Street: Homecourt" and "The Bigs" were pretty successful, but "NFL Street" and "NBA Ballers" (pronounced ball-uhz) have left the sour taste of used jock strap in the mouths of gamers. So to speak.

"3-on-3 NHL Arcade" brings the player count down to three players plus a goalie per side. Sadly, the title is a misnomer. Goalies are often marginalized, but to not include them in the title is a low blow.

Moving past semantics, "3-on-3" is essentially the hockey version of "NBA Jam." The power-ups are sillier, the hits are bigger and the players' heads are equally massive. Animations are exaggerated to accommodate

the circus-like spectacle of it all, and the controls can be as complex as five buttons or as simple as one trigger and the right analog stick.

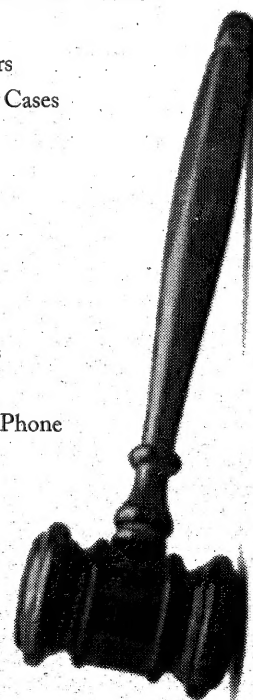
Games play out in an untimed, first-to-however-many-goals fashion and are a blast to play, either online or with a buddy on the same screen. Game modes are limited to quick play local or online, though; there's no tournament or season mode to speak of, limiting the playability of "3-on-3" to short spurts. The game is licensed and uses the names and numbers of a few dozen NHL players like Roberto Luongo and Alex Ovechkin, but the only available teams are "red" and "blue." One would think if EA had shelled out licensing fees to the NHL, they could at least include the actual NHL teams.

What "3-on-3" does with player selection almost makes up for it, though. Each player (other than goalies) have a rating of "Strong," "Fast" or "All-Around," similar to the balance in "Ice Hockey" for the NES, one of the first hockey video games and still a classic. It adds a reasonable element of strategy to picking lineups.

For a downloadable title with not much depth, a whole lot of fun can be found in "3-on-3 NHL Arcade." Just don't expect quite the level of revelry "NBA Jam" inspired when you were 8 years old, sitting on your living room floor in your "Calvin & Hobbes" underoos.

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Step 4 Is it coherent? Does it
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Types of Acronyms:

- Folksy Names:** a cheery name
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fact your project cost millions
- Aggressive verb/predatory
animal:** a requirement for
getting military funding
- Greek names:** nothing says
"Sci-Fi" like a good greek
name

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